"INTERCESSORY PRAYER"

II Thessalonians 1:11-12
6-17-2026

***We need to intercede on behalf of believers!**

I. HOW do I intercede? (v. 11a)
(The manner of our praying)

A. Pray purposefully

B. Pray continually

C. Pray specifically

II. WHAT do I intercede about? (v. 11b)
(The content of our praying)

Pray that:
A. God's children would measure up to the great salvation God called them to.

Pray that:
B. God's children would accomplish the good will of God

Pray that:
C. God's children would accomplish the good work of God

III. WHY do I intercede? (v. 12)
(The motive behind our praying)

*Christ's glory is the goal of our prayers. How is He glorified?

A. By what He does in you

B. By what you do in Him

IV. WHAT do I rely on as I intercede?
*God's grace is the power of our prayers.

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I. <u>HOW</u> do I intercede? (v. 11a)
(The <u>manner</u> of our praying)

A. Pray _____

B. Pray _____

C. Pray _____

II. <u>WHAT</u> do I intercede about? (v. 11b)
(The <u>content</u> of our praying)

Pray that:
A. God's children would _____ _____ to the great salvation God called them to.

Pray that:
B. God's children would <u>accomplish</u> the good _____ of God

Pray that:
C. God's children would <u>accomplish</u> the good _____ of God

III. <u>WHY</u> do I intercede? (v. 12)
(The <u>motive</u> behind our praying)

*Christ's _____ is the goal of our prayers. How is He glorified?

A. By what <u>He</u> does in <u>you</u>

B. By what <u>you</u> do in <u>Him</u>

IV. <u>WHAT</u> do I rely on as I intercede?

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INTRODUCTION:

Prayer unites puny man to the omnipotent God.

Prayer is:
most essential, the most needed thing, yet the most neglected

*The most important person in your church is the one who prays the most

*The most influential person in your church in the one who prays the most

Definition "intercessory Prayer" -

To "intercede" is to meet with God, and to plead on behalf of others.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us - Rom. 8:27.

Jesus Christ intercedes for us - Rom. 8:34.
Lk. 22:32c - "I have prayed for them"
Heb. 7:25 - "He ever liveth to make intercession for them"

As Baptists, we believe in the "priesthood of the believer" - we all can approach God on behalf of each other.

Intercessory prayers are found throughout the Scriptures:

Abraham prayed for Abimelech (Gen. 20:7).
Moses prayed for Israel (Ex. 32:11-14; Num. 14:11-21).
Moses prayed for Aaron (Deut. 9:20).
Samuel prayed for Israel (I Sam. 7:5-8 *I Sam. 12:23)
David prayed for Israel (Ps. 25:22, 28:9).
Job prayed for his family (Job 1:5) and friends (42:8, 10).
Israel prayed for Babylon (Jer. 29:7).
Daniel prayed for Israel (Dan. 9:3-19).
Jesus Christ prayed for all believers. (Jn. 17)

Whom should we intercede for?
"For all men" (I Tim. 2:1)

--Political leaders (v. 2-3)
(Mayor, governor, senators, President)

--Unsaved people (v. 4)
Paul prayed for his people Israel to be saved (Rom. 10:1).

--Your enemies (Mt. 5:44)
EX: Stephen Acts 7:60 - "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge"

--Especially pray for fellow-believers (Eph. 6:18)
Pray for physical and spiritual healing (Ja. 5:14-f)

Why should we intercede?

"Help, LORD, for the godly man ceaseth, for the faithful fail from among the children of men" (Ps. 12:1).

None of us is exempt from our need for other's prayers.

Prayer support is needed even by spiritual leaders.

Paul needed it - Rom. 15:30-32, II Cor. 1:11, Eph. 6:19-20; I Th. 5:25, II Th. 3:1 (cp. Heb. 13:18).

The only One who never needed prayer was Jesus Christ.

"Pray for us" (Heb. 13:18).

***We need to intercede on behalf of believers!**

I. HOW do I intercede? (v. 11a)
(The manner of our praying)

A. Pray purposefully

"Wherefore" - lit. unto this end (NASV); toward this goal

The "wherefore" evidently refers back to vv. 3-4. In light of their salvation and growth in the midst of trials and tribulations, the missionaries prayed for them.

B. Pray continually

"Always" - Paul, Silas, and Timothy had a regular, habitual, consistent, and continual pattern of praying for the Thessalonians.

C. Pray specifically

The word ***"you"*** is emphatic.

"For you" - the prayer was not a general or vague request, but was specific and personal.

II. WHAT do I intercede about? (v. 11b)
(The content of our praying)

"that" - in order that - introduces the specific content of Paul's prayer.

Pray that:

A. God's children would <u>measure up</u> to the great salvation God called them to.

"In verse 5, Paul had stated that he wanted them to be worthy of the kingdom when they entered glory in the future. But here he emphasized their present situation" (Wiersbe, p. 133).

"Count you worthy" - to consider equal to; to measure up to a certain standard.

Paul prayed that the Thessalonians Christians would live like Christians; that they would measure up tot heir high calling of salvation.

Their lifestyle was to suit their high and noble position in Christ.

Some things are unbecoming to a Christian; some practices are unworthy of us to partake of.

Ephesians 4:1 -

Pray that:

B. God's children would <u>accomplish</u> the good <u>will</u> of God

"Fulfill" - to accomplish or complete. We have a job to carry out and to bring to fulfillment.

"The good pleasure of His goodness" - we live not to please ourselves, but the One who saved us.

What matters is that God is pleased with us.

The servant is not content to do a job to his own satisfactions, but to the satisfaction of his master.

"To know God's will is life's greatest lesson; to do God's will is life's greatest privilege."

God's will is ***"goodness" -*** just as Paul said in Rom. 12:2, *"...that you might know what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

When you pray, pray that God would enable his children to accomplish His will (his good desires).

Pray that:

C. God's children would <u>accomplish</u> the good <u>work</u> of God

Along with fulfilling the <u>will</u> of God, the missionaries prayed that the Thessalonians would fulfill the "<u>work</u>" of God.

"Work of faith" - work is tied to faith because faith is the secret of getting the work done!

We work because of our faith. Our works for God are the result of our faith in God. No one serves a God they don't believe in.

It is our faith which inspires us to work.
It is our faith which enables us to work.

Faith works!

Faith is not a stagnant belief but a "powerful" (*"in power"*) belief.

"A living faith is a working faith" (Ja. 2:17).

We were saved by faith to <u>work</u> for God (Eph. 2:10).

Our own efforts are vain without God's <u>power</u>.

God must complete the work of faith in us. Without him, we *"can do nothing"* (Jn. 15).

We age, deteriorate, decay and die. We cannot complete anything of any eternal significance without Him

III. <u>WHY</u> do I intercede? (v. 12)
(The <u>motive</u> behind our praying)

Why pray?

What should move us to pray?

What is the ultimate reason e ask God to work in lives?

Answer: That God would be glorified by the lives through which He worked.

*Christ's glory is the goal of our prayers. How is He glorified?

"That" = for the purpose that; with the motive that.

Paul and his colleagues prayed with the motive of seeing Christ glorified.

"the name" - the name of Christ stands for His reputation.

"glorified" - to receive the honor, praise, credit that He deserves.

"in you" - Jesus is glorified when He works **"in you"**

"ye in him" -Jesus is glorified when you work "in him"

These two phrases point to the intimate unity believers have with Christ.
He is in us and we are in Him. Cp. this phrase in John 10:38; 17:21, 23

A. By what He does in you

B. By what you do in Him

IV. WHAT do I rely on as I intercede?

*God's grace is the power of our prayers.

"according to the grace of our God" - it is by His grace that He answers prayer. None of us "deserve" His answers. It is only by His grace that we bring glory to Him.

"and the Lord Jesus Christ" - both the Father and Son are the source of grace because both the Father and the Son are divine (deity).

"A MODEL PRAYER LIST"
(How to Intercede for Others)
Colossians 1:9-12

Note: The Characteristics of Paul's Prayer -

1. He prayed for spiritual blessings, not mere material or physical things.

2. He did not pray that they would have some new additional spiritual experience; but that they would come to realize the blessings that were already theirs.

3. He prayed that the Colossians would have a balance of knowing right and doing right and being right.

   Note the order:
   Knowledge (v. 9) ------- Walk (v. 10) -------- Strength (v. 11)

   No one can walk right unless they know the truth. And strength is a result of both knowing and walking right.

"Oh that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbor!"
(Job 16:21)